UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT

Memorandum

TO : SAC (44-1987)

DATE: 8/23/68

FROM : SA WILLIAM H. LAWRENCE

SUBJECT: MURKIN

On 8/1/68 [redacted] orally advised the writer as follows:

[redacted] of white male RENFRO TURNER HAYS, a private investigator, who has in recent years done much investigative work for Memphis attorneys such as RUSSELL X. THOMPSON and JERE HUFFMAN.

It will be recalled that on Friday night, 7/26/68, Captain JEWELL G. RAY, Intelligence Bureau, Memphis, Tennessee, Police Department, and now in charge of security for prisoner JAMES EARL RAY, indicted for the 4/4/68 sniping shooting of MARTIN LUTHER KING, JR., advised the writer that RAY's attorney ARTHUR HANES of Birmingham, Alabama., was in town and was going to the Home Federal Building Office of RUSSELL X. THOMPSON to meet with THOMPSON and RENFRO T. HAYS.

It will be further recalled that on the night of the KING killing, 4/4/68, [redacted] phoned the writer to confidentially point out that HAYS could have been a suspect in the KING killing, in that he had a white compact car and had been inquiring on or about 4/3/68 as to the room number of KING who was then staying in Room 306, Lorraine Motel.

On 8/1/68 HAYS [redacted] said he, HAYS, and THOMPSON were going to do some legal and investigative work in behalf of RAY's defense for ARTHUR HANES [redacted]

1 - 44-1987
1 - 170-70 Sub [redacted]
1 - 170-866
1 - 170-831 [redacted]
1 - 100-662 (NAACP)
WHL:gmh
(5)

44-1987-Sub-297

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RENFRO said that THOMPSON, a white attorney, formerly in the integrated law firm of Ratner, Sugarmon, Willis and Thompson, was now a law partner of former Memphis Mayor, WILLIAM B. INGRAM; that nevertheless he would not jeopardize his Negro clientele because he was still on retainer of NAACP; and that the NAACP had no objections to his helping with the RAY defense as the NAACP would like to learn more about RAY and THOMPSON felt this would be an excellent way to get the inner secrets, if any, regarding the mystery surrounding JAMES EARL RAY.

[redacted] HAYS claimed that a Memphis white photographer, WILBUR CURTIS, with offices in the 100 North Main Building, has taken a series of aerial photographs of the rooming house and Lorraine Motel area.

HAYS said that THOMPSON and HANES are relying heavily for defense leads and strategy on an article which appeared in "Ramparts" Magazine, issue of 7/13/68 entitled, "Some Disturbing Parallels," by WILLIAM W. TURNER, former FBI Agent, and now a senior editor for "Ramparts."

A Xerox copy of this article is attached to each copy of this memorandum.

[redacted]